

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S/S-S:RPACE:BABS

APPROVED BY S/S:FWISNER

NSC:MR. INDERFURTH

WHITE HOUSE:MR. WISE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP--SCHEDULE

REF: (A) LAGOS 2579, (B) LAGOS 2574

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED PROGRAM AND THE COMMENTS WHICH YOU PROVIDED.

2. REGARDING PARAGRAPH 1 OF LAGOS 2574, WE WISH TO REDUCE THE TIME SPENT IN THE AIRPORT CEREMONY. THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM WILL DISCUSS THIS IN DETAIL UPON ITS ARRIVAL.

3. ARRIVAL CEREMONY: WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REDUCE THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY BY ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. PLEASE PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE CEREMONIES AT DODAN BARRACKS, AND WHY MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR SHOULD BE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THESE CEREMONIES. WHILE WE WOULD
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PREFER TO HAVE NO RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE NIGERIANS' HAVING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS REPRESENTED AT DODAN BARRACKS.

4. WREATH-LAYING: YOU SHOULD COMMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE NIGERIANS ATTACH TO THE TAFAWA BALEWA WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY. WE WISH TO AVOID A WREATH-LAYING

CEREMONY.

5. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH: WE ACCEPT THE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SHOULD HOST THE SPEECH AND ARE LEANING TOWARD THE NATIONAL THEATRE AS THE BEST VENUE. THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM WILL WISH TO VISIT THE SITE. WE ASSUME THAT, AS THE GUEST LIST IS PREPARED, YOU WILL SCREEN IT CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT THE AUDIENCE IS A RECEPTIVE AND RESPONSIVE ONE. AS THE GUEST LIST IS BEING PREPARED WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR KEEPING US INFORMED OF THE PRINCIPLE CATEGORIES/PROMINENT NIGERIANS BEING INVITED. THE PRE-ADVANCE WILL BE PREPARED TO GO OVER NAMES.

6. DIPLOMATIC CORPS RECEPTION: A SEPARATE RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS NOT POSSIBLE.

7. BANQUET: WE CONTINUE TO PREFER THAT THE BANQUET BE HELD ON THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, APRIL 1, LEAVING SUNDAY, APRIL 2, OPEN SO THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN RELAX BEFORE HIS LONG TRIP HOME.

8. KANO VISIT LOGISTICS: DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO MOVE ELEMENTS OF THE PARTY TO KANO AT DIFFERENT TIMES. ALL MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WILL TRAVEL TO KANO AT THE SAME TIME.

9. KANO VISIT SCHEDULE: WE WERE SURPRISED TO NOTE THAT GENERAL OBASANJO WILL NOT BE VISITING KANO WITH THE PRESIDENT. AS THE EMBASSY WILL RECALL, OUR ONLY REASON FOR INCLUDING KANO ON THE SCHEDULE WAS TO MEET THE GENERAL'S STRONGLY HELD DESIRE THAT THE PRESIDENT MAKE THIS TRIP. WE WOULD LIKE THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS AS TO WHETHER THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IS A FINAL ONE. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL THE NIGERIANS THAT WE DO NOT SEE HOW THE PRESIDENT CAN VISIT THE KADAWA IRRIGATION PROJECT, AND THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE THEIR UNDERSTANDING IN THIS MATTER. THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ON THE EVE OF COMPLETING A LONG TRIP, AND A FURTHER EVENT IS NOT POSSIBLE. THE INCONVENIENCE OF MOVING THE PRESIDENT AND LARGE OFFICIAL AND PRESS PARTIES SEEMS TO RULE OUT ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF KADAWA.

10. PRESS CONFERENCE: WE ARE NOT PLANNING FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE IN NIGERIA, AND THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM CONSIDERING ONE IF THE SUBJECT ARISES AGAIN.

11: COMMUNIQUE: WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A COMMUNIQUE,

BUT WISH TO LEAVE OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT WOULD BE ISSUED UPON THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE OR SIGNED BY THE TWO HEADS OF STATE. THE POLICY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMMUNIQUE WILL BE A FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER IT IS TO BE SIGNED. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT THE PRESS WILL ALREADY HAVE DEPARTED BY THE TIME A COMMUNIQUE COULD BE SIGNED AT DODAN BARRACKS.

12. U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY: WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME ASPECT
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OF THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE. INCLUDING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AMONG THOSE INVITED TO THE SPEECH LOOKS TO BE THE BEST POSSIBILITY BUT YOU MAY WISH TO RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVES.

13. WITH RESPECT TO THE SCHEDULE WHICH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSED YOU SHOULD CHECK DRIVING TIMES CAREFULLY. IF THE SCHEDULE WHICH THE NIGERIANS SUGGESTED IS TO BE KEPT, THEY SHOULD CONFIRM THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO KEEP THE STREETS CLEAR OF TRAFFIC. CHRISTOPHER

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